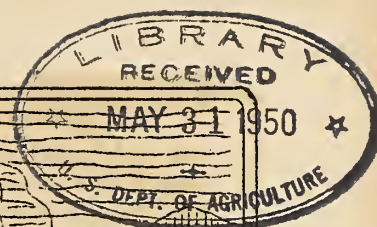


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Vol. 6, No. 2

February - 1941

## ON THE ALERT

By Paul H. Roberts

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The pioneer had to be on the alert. If he weren't he got an arrow or a bullet in a vital spot and his days of usefulness were over.

Nebraska last fall sent out a questionnaire to about 1400 shelterbelt cooperators regarding the influence of shelterbelts on wildlife. About 300 replies were received and the respondents were preponderantly of the belief that the belts are a great thing for wildlife, that they have also other related benefits, and in fact that the shelterbelt planting program is one of the finest projects ever undertaken in the State. However, they were not all effusively commendatory. A few said their belts hadn't done well, for one reason or another; some complained that replanting had not been done properly; and one or two kicked about their Cedar rows not having been replanted. Quite a number apparently had some questions in their minds that they would like to have answered, and one fellow said flatly that the shelterbelt program is just like everything else the Democrats have tried - a monumental flop.

These questions and little irritations indicate to me that in spite of the tremendous amount of contact work that we do in connection with cultivation, rodent control, etc., we could still be a little closer to the individual on the land. There obviously is still opportunity to get better acquainted with him and to better help him meet the problems concerned with the care of his belt. We can't meet all of the problems, but if we keep our collective foot off the gas a little longer, take a little more time to look at the pigs and the tomatoes, as well as the shelterbelt, and take time to examine the shelterbelt with the farmer even if it is a "ragged" or a "wooly" one, it will help a lot.

Nebraska made fine use of this questionnaire. The respondents' opinions regarding the influence of shelterbelts on wildlife were obvious and very stimulating. But Nebraska is also going back to the farmers who raised questions and is going to try to work them out on the ground.

We get leads to such matters from many directions. We must be on the alert to see them and make use of them. Our own days of usefulness may be dependent in large part on whether we too are "alert."

## INSPIRATION

After a strenuous summer of cultivation and rodent control contacts on half-skeptical cooperators, and when things are piling up during a tough negotiation campaign, a Subdistrict Officer is likely to get discouraged. He thinks his efforts aren't appreciated and that everything's against him.

Then out of a clear sky an old-timer, who really knows how to make a talk, volunteers to give an inspirational talk at some particular meeting, testifying as to the value of his shelterbelts. At the meeting he warms up his audience to the subject of shelterbelts. He compares the vision needed to build the Empire State Building and the Brooklyn Bridge to the vision necessary in the building of a series of shelterbelts from Canada to Texas.

Again another able cooperator requests permission to start an active organization to push tree planting, and shelterbelt planting in particular. He says in effect: "Shelterbelts will be the salvation of this country. When the mail route has to be changed because the road is blown full of sand, something needs to be done. My one and one-half mile belt won't protect more than a part of my fields. Only when we all have belts across our fields can we hope to accomplish anything. We must cooperate!"

With words like this ringing in his ears, the Subdistrict Officer has his spirits revived. He isn't carrying the whole burden. He hitches up his suspenders, takes a quick look at some of the better belts, and wades in again.

- Carl L. Hawkes, Kans.

## NEWS RELEASE POSSIBILITIES

Recently Garth Champagne, of the Nebraska State Office, made an analysis of the news releases issued by the various units of the Nebraska organization during the last half of 1940, and in commenting on it, said:

"I believe the results obtained in the Neligh District may also clearly indicate that a new type of news release is necessary in units having extensive plantings. In this unit we have already received applications from nearly everyone that has been easily sold on the value of shelterbelts. Now we are faced with the task of selling the program to those who are somewhat dubious of its value. I believe that news releases dealing with the accumulative benefits of 'completed pattern' and others citing actual results accruing from the older plantings would be most effective in selling the program to those who have not been previously interested in plantings.

"In the past I believe we have all looked upon news releases more or less purely as a means of promoting applications and I believe we have overlooked their possibilities for promoting better cultivation, rodent control, protection from livestock, etc. In the future I hope to see more stories aimed at improving farmer cooperation in these activities."

Incidentally, the various elements of that organization during the six months' period issued 103 releases. Thirteen of these were turned out by the State Office, 15 by the District Offices, 70 by Subdistrict Offices, and 5 by the Nurseries.



## THE \$ AND ¢ APPEAL

Probably 99 percent of all persons, when a new proposition is put up to them, will ask themselves "What can I get out of it in dollars and cents?" This is basic human nature. Likewise, any landowner when he becomes exposed to our proposition will do just that, and it is the first thing he does. Rarely does he ask us this question in open meeting. It lurks and squirms only in his mental realms, and as we have not submitted any definite evidence to provide a favorable answer, he remains a Doubting Thomas or an agnostic.

It is my belief that we should, in all our publicity work, concentrate on presenting definite information regarding the dollars and cents value of shelterbelts and to use this appeal as the outstanding argument to influence applications.

The first requirement then is to obtain such information to present to the public. There are two courses; viz., (1) research data and (2) farmer statements.

Unfortunately we have only a very limited amount of research data, and such as we have are incomplete, insufficient, and scattering. Also, again considering farmer psychology, it should be pointed out that most farmers do not react favorably to pure research data. On the other hand, they greedily devour statements, estimates and opinions of brothers in the blood. Therefore, it appears to be good common sense to give them the kind of data that they will accept. After discussing this matter with Howard and Jim, I am convinced that all we have to do is to go and get it.

The method suggested is the development of a suitable questionnaire to be used by district and subdistrict officers in their daily contacts with cooperators and other farmers. Such a questionnaire should be designed to draw out from the farmer every experience he has had, or observation he has made in connection with the benefits, together with any opinions he may have on the subject whether supported by concrete evidence or not.

After a suitable number of such questionnaires have been executed in a State they should be compiled and tabulated in the State Office. Based on these farmer statements a most appealing talk can be developed for use by all our negotiating personnel. A number of news releases can be based on them. They can be used in many ways. Even we may learn a great deal from them.

I believe it would pay us to do this!

- Max Pfaender, Okla.

## OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT

Mr. Edward F. Moody, Phillips County Agent, received a questionnaire from the Kansas Farmer magazine asking for the outstanding accomplishment during 1940 in the county. His reply: "Through shelterbelt plantings made by the Prairie States Forestry Project, it was proved to the people of Phillips County that trees will grow in this country."

- Victor A. Griswold, Kans.

## CONVINCING THE COOPERATORS

Mr. Engstrom's article on the shelterbelt of the future was very satisfying to me, particularly as it concerned the use of conifers. I have felt that insufficient consideration was being given the coniferous species, especially in North Dakota, where they might provide the greatest benefit. All of us are well acquainted with the possibilities and the benefits which can be derived from the use of conifers in a shelterbelt, but the cooperator finds it difficult to visualize them.

We have a big task before us to obtain the farmer's cooperation and to convince the farmer in North Dakota that the benefits to be expected are worth the extra effort necessary to establish conifers. In most cases he wants quick protection and a full stand of trees in the area allotted to the shelterbelt. During the past two seasons conifers have been planted extensively, and during the winter months many cooperators request that these rows be planted to faster-growing, more dependable species.

It will require forceful effort on the part of every officer, and tax the ingenuity of the forces of I & E, to convince the cooperators before the "Shelterbelt of the Future" will materialize.

- Lester D. Hansen, N. Dak.

## ANOTHER HIGH BELT "OUT WEST"

In the December issue of PLAINS FORESTER Hy Goldberg gave forth to the effect that Texas has the farthest west and most elevated belt on the Project. But not so - if his belt is still in Texas.

In 1937 when the Alliance District of the Nebraska Unit made its beginning in Box Butte County, about 20 miles of belts were planted farther west than the Texas west boundary in the Panhandle and above an altitude of 4,000 feet. In 1938 the District was expanded and in what is now the Bridgeport Subdistrict of the Alliance District perhaps 100 miles of plantings are farther west than the west boundary of the Texas Panhandle. One planting in particular that we would like to mention is one degree of latitude (about sixty miles) farther west than the belt which Hy mentions, and is located approximately 4,500 feet above sea level. No, and we won't concede the survival prize either, inasmuch as one of the 1937 belts mentioned above had, in the spring of 1938, a survival of 94%.

- L. F. Joris and John J. Zaylskie, Nebr.

## ACTION SLOGANS

We have all gone a long way in our publicity of various kinds toward "explanation" of our program. But have we progressed as far as we can toward inciting "action" on the part of the public? Publicity specialists tell us that such "action" hinges upon the proper appeal to human emotions. These appeals, they say, may be briefly listed somewhat as follows: Gain, Protection, Pride, Convenience, Comfort, Affection.

Now then, how about some slogans keynoting "action" that may be applied to news articles, slide lectures, exhibits, and radio broadcasts.

Once we have a good slogan, it is an easy matter to concoct suitable illustrations and variations to meet different situations. To start the ball rolling we offer, for whatever they may be worth, the following slogans:

The modern American spirit! Not to deplete, but to restore our resources.

Your opportunity to protect our native land.

Add to your stake in America!

Your America! Scarred by erosion? Or beautified and protected by shelterbelts?

Aid the march of trees across the plains.

Life is more pleasant in the shade!

Come in out of the wind!

In the shadow of shelterbelts lie prosperous homes and farms.

A shelter

Belt

Controls the wind.

Keep your farm at home --

The only farm improvement which improves with age.

For better yields - protect your fields with a belt of trees.

Shelterbelts for Farm Defense.

In defense of agriculture - Shelterbelts.

"Dad, why don't we have a shelterbelt?"

National defense begins at home -- plant a shelterbelt on your farm.

- Frank Sampson and Ray Burns, Kans.

#### ONE WAY TO "PACK 'EM IN"

County agents soon learn all the wrinkles in gaining the ear of the body politic, as witness the following:

During December, County Agent Cunningham at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, got out a couple of mimeographed letters to his people, urging them to take advantage of the shelterbelt planting program. Then on January 2 he announced a forthcoming picture show to be held at the Lacy School, the offerings to be "Trees to Tame the Wind" and "The River." There is nothing very remarkable about the announcement itself, though it is up to the usual high standard



of county agent circulars, but a postscript gives you a good idea of the propensity of these fellows for overlooking no bets. It says: "This meeting will be held immediately following the revival meeting which is starting at the Lacy School on this same evening."

- E. L. Perry, R. O.

#### PUSH INSTEAD OF PULL

Because of the heavy soil at the Plainview Nursery and difficulties with side draft when one off-center digger blade is used, it has been found desirable to attach two digger blades to the tractor tool bar and use two tractors for power. In the past, the auxiliary tractor was hooked-up in the lead, coupled to the rear tractor by a chain. This hitch did not prove fully satisfactory as the lead tractor would be stopped by the irrigation ditch or fence row at the end of the row, while the rear tractor with the digger would still be 10 or 12 feet from the end. It would then be necessary to uncouple the lead tractor, leaving the one tractor to pull through the remainder of the row. Generally, the one tractor would be unable to pull through and it would be necessary to either hand-dig the ends or partially raise the blades which would result in short cut roots. In any case many seedlings at the end of the row would be a total loss.

This year our problem was solved by the simple expedient of using the auxiliary tractor as a pusher instead of in the lead. This permits undercutting out to the end of the row without stopping, and also does away with the slack between the tractors which we had at times with the lead-type hitch.

A "wishbone" hook-up is used to connect the pusher tractor to the lead tractor. This consists of a couple of angle irons  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, welded to a "V"-shape with the wide end hinge bolted to holes on the rear of the axle on the front tractor. The closed end of the "V" fits into a slot on a "U" iron bolted to the front of the frame of the rear tractor. A coupling pin holds the connection rigidly together and, therefore, there is no slack between the tractors at any time.

To keep the front of the rear tractor from raising up when the going gets tough a "safety" chain is looped over the wishbone and under the tool bar.

Am also using this method in undercutting Cedar transplants where the uneven spacing of the rows does not permit use of two blades. The pusher hook-up does away with the side draft problem where one off-center blade is used.

- Albert S. Klein, Tex.

#### WORTH QUOTING

"As you grow in your art," said Gounod to a young poet, "you will judge the great masters of the past as I now judge the great musicians of former times. At your age I used to say 'I'; at twenty-five I said, 'I and Mozart'; at forty, 'Mozart and I'; now I say 'Mozart.'"

- Reg. 9 "Daily Contact"



## RABBITS vs. "QUADS"

It was Tuesday, Andy Semmon was at the Enderlin Forest Service nursery office toiling over posters announcing a rabbit drive to be held the following Sunday. It read in part: "Meet at Nick Brown's Filling Station 10 miles east of Enderlin on Highway 46. Bring your shotguns." Little did Andy dream that the following Thursday Nick Brown would become the father of three boys and one girl, the first quadruplets to be born in North Dakota, and an event which commanded headlines in the leading newspapers of the country.

Yes sir! on Sunday at the appointed hour the hunters did come to Nick Brown's filling station and lunch counter but there was no rabbit hunt. They joined with relatives and friends in congratulating Nick and to ply questions about the "Quads." The questions were, "What do they look like? When are they coming home from the Fargo hospital? What are you going to name them?"

The rabbits got a respite, but Nick reminded the crowd that it wouldn't be long before the new boys in the family would be big enough to help them "mow-em-down" while their sister stayed at home and brewed coffee and made lunch for the hunters.

Nick lives in a community heavily dotted with shelterbelts, in fact he has some that were planted about his place by the S.C.S. before the Forest Service came into the picture in his community. He likes trees and talks much to his customers about them, and no doubt he will train his new family to plant more shelterbelts. Andy says he doesn't mind being chisled out of one rabbit hunt by four babies as long as they are future prospects for shelterbelts.

- T. C. Hutchinson, N. Dak.

(In transmitting the above, North Dakota said: "We hesitate to submit this. We would have liked to cherish this little incident as something peculiarly and uniquely setting North Dakota apart from her sister States in this one small sector. But something tells us that the minute this appears in print Kansas will break out in a perfect rash of quintuplets who, far from holding up any rabbit hunts, take a hitch in their swaddling clothes and go along.")

## LAND USE PLANNING

District Officer Spring and Subdistrict Officer Griswold attended a Land Use Planning Meeting at Great Bend, Kansas, on Tuesday, December 17. At this meeting four practices were decided upon which the AAA would emphasize in Barton County in the 1941 program. The following practices were selected:

1. Legumes
2. Contouring and terracing
3. Strip cropping
4. Shelterbelts and farm woodlots

There was quite a bit of discussion when selecting the first three. Some thought other practices were more important, but when Herman Praeger suggested that they should have shelterbelts in there, they all agreed on that right away.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

## "CAREFUL" PLANTING PRACTICES

Although appearing in the Planting Quarterly for April 1, 1940, the following article by Wm. H. Cushman, of Region One, is considered timely. To some it may appear that stress on care in handling and care in planting is at times overdone, but when a gain of better than 20% can be realized from careful handling and careful planting, then we cannot stress these points too much.

### Plant Carefully

The average influence on field planting survival exerted by the application of additional care in both the handling of, and in the actual planting of coniferous nursery stock under ordinary field conditions has long been a question among planting men. The Planting Office of Region One, with the aid of the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, has worked out and carried for three years a set of field installations that give an answer to both these questions.

Each installation consists of:

1. A random sample of regular field planting.
2. A random sample of similar stock handled in the same manner as the stock planted by the field crew, except that it is very carefully planted.
3. A random sample of similar stock, except that it is expertly lifted at the nursery and kept under the best conditions possible until it is very carefully planted in the field.

The three rows are planted the same day and immediately staked to white, orange, and plain-topped stakes, respectively. The work is done as a part of the regional planting program, and is distributed on all of the planting forests. Seven or eight sets of rows have been planted each year.

The results to date are as follows:

|                                       | <u>Survival Percent</u> |             |             |                |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|                                       | <u>1937</u>             | <u>1938</u> | <u>1939</u> | <u>Average</u> |
| Regular crew planting                 | 70.8                    | 61.6        | 54.1        | 62.2           |
| Careful planting, regular handling    | 77.8                    | 78.4        | 67.7        | 74.6           |
| Careful planting, careful handling    | 89.5                    | 88.6        | 77.7        | 85.3           |
| Gain by careful planting              | 7.0                     | 16.8        | 13.6        | 12.4           |
| Gain by careful handling and planting | 18.7                    | 27.0        | 23.6        | 23.1           |

This brief presentation of the results obtained from a simple experiment does not attempt to point out each of the minute differences in the selection of the spot, in the placing of a tree in the hole, or in the tamping of the dirt about the roots that influence its chances for survival, but it is hoped that it will bolster the conviction of those engaged in planting work that careful planting does influence survival, and that effort expended along this line is effort well spent.

To what extent "careful" practices can be applied in the field is not indicated, but it is clearly evident that careful handling and careful planting pay dividends in live trees.

- L. S. Matthew, R. O.

#### NEWS STORY OF THE MONTH

##### PHEASANTS LIVING HIGH IN ENDERLIN TERRITORY Fargo (N. Dak.) Forum

Enderlin--Upland game birds in the vicinity of Enderlin are living high these winter days due to the efforts of the Enderlin Wild Life association, the Enderlin Kiwanis club and local officers of the United States Forest service. During the past week over a score of feeding stations have been established and more than 100 bushels of grains collected for distribution.

Over 300 pheasants and Hungarian partridge are taking advantage of the feed offered them at four feeding shelters at the Community forest. Other feeding stations have been established.

Slogan of the organizations is "Feed the Birds and They Will Feed You." People in the vicinity of Enderlin who wish to co-operate are asked to contact T. C. Hutchinson.

#### TREE PLANTING INTEREST ON THE UPGRADE

It is gratifying to note the ever-increasing interest in the Project on the part of the public and the endorsement of various agencies and the press which, through a steadily increasing number of news releases, editorials and special articles, have reflected the growing popularity in tree planting.

During the past year, requests for Project data have come from such sources as the State Chamber of Commerce, the State Department, American Legion, Associated Press, and other similar agencies. As a fitting climax to this phase of the year's work, two important requests have just been received for information to be used in special shelterbelt articles. One was from Mr. T. A. McNeal, editor of Senator Capper's "Kansas Farmer," the other from Mr. Gordon Brown, Associated Press representative at Kansas City.

While some such requests were received during the earlier years of the Project they did not, in general, reflect as sympathetic an attitude toward our work or as thorough an understanding of it as do more recent inquiries.

- John D. Hall, Kans.

#### NOT BAD!

Margaret March-Mount, of Region-9, who has helped us out several times in our educational work with women's clubs, and who is a 33d degree "Shelterbelter" in her own right, says: "How's this for a slogan? Land should be growing; not blowing."



## CONSIDER IT "MADE," BILL

Recently we received a batch of clippings from the Oklahoma State Office to which was attached a note from the Subdistrict Officer who collected them, as follows: "What do you think of this for a haul, all from one paper. Did you ever think we would rate in the Society Column? This ought to make PLAINS FORESTER."

The clippings were four in number, all from the Watonga Republican for January 9, and the collector was W. G. Kunkle. One of the clippings is headed "Farm Protected by Belt of Trees" and tells about the effect of a shelterbelt on a cotton field in that vicinity. Another proclaims "Trees Are Used to Rebuild Lost Farms" while still a third says "Recreation Center is Popular" and recites the fact that one Bill Kunkle of the "forestry service" put on a free picture show as one of the holiday activities at the recreation center. And then, over in the Society Column, we find this same ubiquitous Mr. Kunkle helping a Mrs. Fred Seedorf entertain the Cedar Valley Club.

That's pretty good, Bill, but it still leaves the sporting page, the financial section, and the classified ads unflavored with shelterbelt news. What are you going to do about that, Bill?

- E. L. Perry, R. O.

## S H E L T E R B E L T

Recently Subdistrict Officer Elbert E. Evans, of Nebraska, had an idea for a poster utilizing the individual letters in the word "Shelterbelt" to form the initial letter in the description of some benefit derived from shelterbelts. Noting that these descriptions looked like pretty good headlines for news stories, he wrote a series of brief articles elaborating on the theme developed around each letter, and the articles were published under his by-line in the papers of his Subdistrict.

Here is the way the word "Shelterbelt" looks when so garnished:

S hields crops from hot winds.  
H arbors birds that eat insects.  
E nhances beauty of farm.  
L engthens fuel consumption.  
T ames snow drifts.  
E nds soil blowing.  
R educes evaporation.  
B oosts post production.  
E nds rough lumber shortage.  
L essens feed for livestock.  
T otals increased values.

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"If everything is right, the development of a wrong is easily detected. If many things are wrong, it is very difficult to detect the development of an additional wrong."

- The PROFITAKER (Daily Bulletin)

## USDA CLUB

With "cooperation" the keynote of our project, we are trying the organization of a USDA Club in Pratt. We found eight Federal agencies with officers in Pratt. Once a month we are meeting with the ladies for dinner and a round-table discussion.

At our meetings we have the goal of coordinating our work to make it more efficient and of more value to the farmer. We are following the plan of devoting one meeting to an agency. When we understand each other's program, we shall try to apply each program where it is pertinent to the different farm problems within the county, taking a different community at each meeting. We may find that a community will take more than one meeting when we get to working on its problems.

After only three meetings there is already a more evident spirit of cooperation. It used to be "out of sight, out of mind." Now, instead of special community meetings for each agency, several of us work together on the special meetings that are called, such as the Federal Farm Loan Association annual meetings, the Farm Security meetings, and the AAA meetings.

As a special project we have got the Chamber of Commerce to help us sponsor a USDA educational day. On that day we are planning a continuous moving picture in which each agency will have a strip about its program. It will be on Saturday afternoon and open to the public to come and go as they please. We hope to catch the many who come to town for shopping and visiting, and give them a chance to see some of the many Federal aids they can receive.

- Carl L. Hawkes, Kans.

## A WILDLIFE PROBLEM

We have a new problem in this district that may require considerable diplomatic effort to solve. A farmer who has traveled some 1400 odd miles cultivating his trees, recently came into the office in a bad frame of mind. He reported that deer were destroying the trees in his belts.

Upon investigation, it was found (clerks do field work here) that in scratching their antlers the deer had broken off 52 Cottonwoods and 10 Chinese Elm. The owner has threatened to kill the deer and sportsmen have made dire threats if he does kill them.

We have not solved the problem but it must be admitted that we were entirely unprepared for such an occurrence, especially in this state.

- Wayne F. Wood, N. Dak.

(To prove that the above story is not a hoax, North Dakota submits a clipping of a story from the Fargo Forum under a three-column head, on the deer damage to this belt, together with a photograph of the farmer and Wood examining the damage, the photograph taken by the Fargo Forum. All that remains now is for someone to find a bear hibernating under the spreading roots of one of our Cottonwoods, and a turkey roost in the upward reaches of one of our Hackberries. Well, I'm for it, anyway. E. L. Perry)

### CONIFER GROWTH

All of us have viewed conifer rows that had excellent survivals despite the fact they were weed patches throughout the year. This observation has led some to advocate weedy conifer rows as a means of obtaining good survival, despite the fact that no one advocates weedy rows for securing hardwood survivals.

In casting about for a reason for this difference in survivals of hardwoods and conifers in weedy shelterbelts, I wonder if the following applies: As I best remember, a microscopic examination of a woody cross-section reveals that current growth is divided into two periods - spring wood and summer wood. Hardwoods begin growing slowly and add only a little increment in the spring and if growth conditions are favorable (sufficient moisture - result of good cultivation in most cases) the hardwoods will put on most of their increment during the summer.

On the other hand, conifers start out rapidly and put on most of their increment in the spring and only minor growth during the summer.

If these facts hold, that will explain why conifers appear to grow well under weedy conditions when actually they attain their growth early while there is sufficient moisture and later merely mark time under dry - weedy conditions. It would also explain why summer-growing hardwoods fail to survive.

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.  
(But now of S. Dak.)

### FRUIT GROWS "UP NORTH"

Inasmuch as we are closer to the Arctic Circle than some other states, many people entertain the opinion that fruit cannot be grown in this state. However, we offer the following to contradict any such opinions.

One of the better farm orchards in Barnes County was planted in 1923, covering an area of three acres. It is completely surrounded by a shelterbelt consisting of seven rows of trees and shrubs.

The yield this year totaled 60 bushels of apples, 20 bushels of crab apples, 30 bushels of plums and, believe it or not, 10 bushels of pears.

The fruit is of excellent quality and not a case of internal upset occurred in a bushel. I know because I generously tested its quality on several occasions.

- Earle C. Thomas, N. Dak.

### PEOPLE ARE ENTERTAINED BY THE ODDEST THINGS!

Melvin Crawford, of Kansas, recently made an address before the Mulvane Civic Club, of Mulvane, Kansas, all of which is duly recorded on the face of a Form 129 address card. But Melvin is one of those who believes in giving to his public his all in the way of talent. On the reverse of the card he says, "Ate huge quantity of oyster soup and crackers. Audience appreciative."

- E. L. Perry, R. C.



## INFORMATION PLEASE

We are re-chewing the 1940 field survival data sheet, recently circularized under "S-STATISTICS, Survival," by Mr. Olson, along with his comments.

It is noted that under "Major Causes of Loss....." all States except Texas list "Poor Stock" as one of the major causes of mortality. It is further noted from Mr. Olson's remarks that the causes of loss represent impressions gained by field men rather than having been determined by intensive study.

The matter of field survival is of interest to nurserymen as well as district men. Hence, if it is true that one of the major causes of loss is poor stock, then it is of real importance that all of us understand just what constitutes "poor stock," and on what basis this is determined in field survival counts. A tree that I might classify as a poor specimen--even though it has the required caliper--may actually thrive in the field, or I might pass a tree as O.K., yet it shows up dead next fall and is marked on the survival sheet under "Cause--poor stock."

The following are some questions in this connection that keep bothering me:

1. What measure, method or basis is used in determining loss attributed to poor stock?
2. Is the tree dug up and root system examined?
3. Are oversized trees usually classified as poor stock?
4. Does caliper have any bearing on mortality rate? Does too much or not enough top?
5. When no other cause is apparent, is it, by deduction, blamed to poor stock or poor handling?
6. What differentiates poor stock from stock poorly handled?
7. Taken for granted the necessity of knowing the various causes of mortality, why are field survival counts made only once a year and at the end of the growing season?
8. How account for the fact that Texas was the only state not listing "poor stock" as a major cause of loss?

After that last question I can hear a guy way over towards Plainview holler "Because we don't raise any." Yeah, that's what I know, Al, but didn't Webb ship in any trees at all?

Notwithstanding that outburst from Texas-way just then, I hope to get a lot of good information from PLAINS FORESTERS from the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota to Turkey, Texas.

- M. K. Meines, Nebr.

## ARBOR DAY REVIVAL

Due pretty largely to really herculean efforts on the part of the PSFP, the institution of Arbor Day celebration has been revived in Kansas. During the past couple of years, particularly, the Project has stirred up civic bodies, commercial nurserymen, and others, to make a real effort to get trees planted on Arbor Day and the results have been quite gratifying.

Just recently the Great Bend Junior Chamber of Commerce got out a mimeographed bulletin describing their Arbor Day campaign last year and sent it to all the Junior Chambers in Kansas. Last year this Junior Chamber put on a countywide drive, taking orders for forest tree seedlings at cost. They then purchased the seedlings in bulk from commercial nurserymen, bundled them by orders, and distributed them to ten distribution points throughout the county. Subdistrict Officer Victor Griswold is "technical adviser" to the Chamber.

- E. L. Perry, R. C.

## CAUGHT SHORT

Familiarity with this term is not necessarily based upon some sad experience with the stock market. I think we all know its implication that something which was expected to happen didn't happen, and as a result a dire situation developed.

Since 1933 this section of the country has surely been "caught short" on current rainfall which is the elusive life blood of the Plains and the primary requisite for successful tree planting.

This isn't news. All of us have read and said and perhaps even felt how dry we are, but the following record of accumulated rainfall deficiency for the period 1933 to 1939, inclusive, is interesting, since it pictures relative dryness of some 70 field stations located in or near our planting areas. The accumulated total deficiency for each station represents the sum of yearly deviations from the average annual rainfall preceding 1933. For the most part these yearly averages for the earlier period are based upon rainfall records extending back 30 or 40 years with some interpolation in the case of stations having records of shorter duration.

It should be remembered that actual amount of rainfall is not the whole story -- distribution and intensity are equally important factors. Nevertheless when we say that as far as total rainfall during the seven-year period is concerned, we have gone one year, three months, and fourteen days without any rain, the statement is analogous in that it partially explains the general shortage of important subsoil moisture.

Although these records disclose an average accumulated deficiency of 33.33 inches of rainfall for the seven-year period, which in itself is a critical condition, the dryness of individual years within the seven-year period has been even more serious. For instance, in the case of Jamestown, North Dakota, the average yearly rainfall previous to 1933 was 20.26 inches and the average from 1933 to 1939 inclusive was 15.71 inches, but in 1936 the total amount of rainfall recorded was only 6.91 inches. At Mangum, Oklahoma, the average annual rainfall previous to 1933 was 27.20 inches, but this dropped to 17.36 in 1933, 18.28 inches in 1934, 14.2 inches in 1936, and 18.11 inches in 1939. Figures of similar significance appear in detailed records from numerous other stations.

When this Project got under way in 1934 most of the Plains area was already suffering from extreme drought conditions and had we known then what we now know about rainfall conditions, it is probable that we would have had considerable doubt as to our ability to establish successful shelterbelt plantings. Actually, the situation resulting from these conditions is far from serious. We have suffered many losses from drought, but the thousands of miles of plantings well on the road to successful establishment provide adequate proof that the stock which we hold in this enterprise of planting trees on the Plains still has a high market value, and with even a partial return to previous supplies of rainfall there ought to be a "bull market" ahead for field shelterbelts.

#### SUMMARY OF PRECIPITATION DATA

| <u>State</u> | <u>Number *<br/>of<br/>Stations</u> | <u>Average Annual<br/>Rainfall Pre-<br/>vious to 1933</u> | <u>Average Annual<br/>Rainfall from<br/>1933 to 1939, incl.</u> | <u>Accumulated<br/>Deficiency for<br/>7-yr. period<br/>(av. for state)</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N. Dak.      | 12                                  | 18.17                                                     | 14.34                                                           | 26.52                                                                      |
| S. Dak.      | 10                                  | 22.17                                                     | 16.72                                                           | 38.12                                                                      |
| Nebr.        | 12                                  | 23.40                                                     | 18.38                                                           | 35.72                                                                      |
| Kansas       | 12                                  | 25.01                                                     | 20.79                                                           | 29.71                                                                      |
| Okla.        | 15                                  | 26.02                                                     | 21.71                                                           | 39.51                                                                      |
| Texas        | 9                                   | <u>24.04</u>                                              | <u>19.98</u>                                                    | <u>28.43</u>                                                               |
| Project      |                                     | 23.22                                                     | 18.65                                                           | 33.00                                                                      |

\*All stations either within or adjoining region in which we operate.

| <u>Stations showing greatest<br/>accumulated deficiency</u> |       | <u>States showing least<br/>accumulated deficiency</u> |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Grand Island, Nebr.                                      | 69.35 | 1. Hutchinson, Kans.                                   | + 6.08 |
| 2. Elk City, Okla.                                          | 61.14 | 2. Towner, N. Dak.                                     | + .30  |
| 3. Aberdeen, S. Dak.                                        | 59.85 | 3. Baltimore, N. Dak.                                  | -13.66 |
| 4. Altus, Okla.                                             | 57.27 | 4. Alliance, Nebr.                                     | -14.64 |
| 5. Fargo, N. Dak.                                           | 53.76 | 5. Brownfield, Tex.                                    | -15.43 |

- H. L. Lobenstein, R. O.

#### A TRIBUTE

In response to a holiday greeting sent to members of the Congressional Delegation from Kansas, State Director Reitz had the following letter from Senator Capper:

Dear Mr. Reitz:

I thank you for your Christmas and New Years greeting. I heartily approve of the fine record you have made in Kansas the past year in promoting the tree planting program. I regard it as one of the most constructive movements the western country is engaged in at this time.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ ARTHUR CAPPER



#### MORE PRAISE FOR THE SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

Recently I received a letter from Mr. Robert L. Denney, who is one of our cooperators in Ellis County. He enclosed a picture of his belt taken just after one of those blowing snow storms which we sometimes have in western Oklahoma. The picture is a very good demonstration of the value of a Shelterbelt in this case.

The first two rows are completely covered with snow, then taper off farther out into the belt. And Mr. Denney states that after the snow was gone from the roads and fence rows, there was still plenty of snow in the belt, and that the moisture from the melting snow reached some distance into the field.

Mr. Denney also says that his Shelterbelt saved his wheat crop in the Spring of 1940. As his neighbor on the south permitted his field to blow, Mr. Denney states, had it not been for his Shelterbelt the sand would have come on across his field and cleared it out.

There is plenty of evidence to bear out his statement as the fence and shrub row are completely covered in some places and the sand drifts extend out two or three rows.

This is a 1935 belt with good survival and just fair growth. Mr. Denney finishes his letter by saying: "Thank's for such a valuable piece of property."

- Ben H. Gilbert, Okla.

#### PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

It doesn't seem just right without District Officer Karl Ziegler on the Kansas Unit, but February 6 marked his departure for South Dakota, where he will be in charge of the Mitchell District.

Karl came to Kansas in August of 1936. He spent a year at Coldwater, and has been at Hutchinson since that time. That Karl's efforts toward shelterbelt establishment have been effective is evidenced by the fact that in Reno County alone, the county in which his district office is located, 356 miles of belts have been planted. The Kansas personnel extend to Karl their best wishes for success in his new assignment. Mrs. Ziegler plans to remain at Hutchinson until March.

The Kansas organization also extends a welcome to Walter S. Palmer, formerly in charge of the Mitchell, South Dakota, District, who will serve as district officer at St. John.

- John D. Hall, Kans.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

A daughter Suzanne Kay, arrived 6:30 P.M., January 15, 1941. Mother and all concerned progressing very nicely. We are all extremely happy and satisfied.

- Carroll C. Deal, Okla.

(From all accounts Carroll has regained his natural color and appetite now, and has that air of satisfaction common among new papas.

- Oklahoma State Office